GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:716
ANSWERED ON:24.07.2003
SHORTAGE OF BULLET PROOF JACKETS
SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (PATIL)

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Army is short of bullet proof jackets for its action along the line of control and for anti-terrorism operations;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the date on which the process to purchase these jackets was initiated and the present position thereof; and

(d) the fresh measures taken by the Government to start the indigenous production of these jackets without compromising the quality?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE : (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) to (d): A Statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.716 ANSWER ON 24.07.2003

1. Consequent to `Operation Vijay`, in June 1999, there was a surge in quantum of troops deployed on the Line of Control/areasof Low Intensity Conflict Operations. Accordingly, the Army Headquarters reviewed their requirement of Bullet Proof JacketsA proposal to lay down the scale of authorisation of Bullet Proof Jackets and to revise the requirementfrom 1,63,250 to 3,53,765 BPJs is under consideration of Ministry of Defence.

2. The sudden surge in the quantum of troops leading to increase in the requirement of Bullet Proof Jackets and simultaneous revision of GSQR to equip the soldiers with the best Bullet Proof Jackets, resulted in a transitional void in fulfilling the requirement of the Bullet Proof Jackets to our troops. However a case for procurement of one lac Bullet Proof Jackets based on the new GSQR is already under process. A Global Techno-Commercial `Request for Proposal` (RFP) for procurement of Bullet Proof Jackets was issued to 89 foreign and 19 Indian firms on 23.01.2002. Offers received in response thereto were technically evaluated by a Committee headed by Deputy Master General of Ordnance and samples of the firms so selected by theCommittee were trial-eveluated at Infantry School, Mhow. Finally the firms whose samples of Bullet Proof Jackets have passedthe trials have been short-listed by the trial team. The Report of the trial-team and the recommendations of Army Headquarters thereon are under consideration of the Ministry of Defence.

3. To encourage indigenous production of Bullet Proof Jackets, without compromising the quality, Techno-Commercial Proposals were issued to the Indian Vendors also. Such of the Vendors, whose `Technical Proposals` were accepted by the Technical Evaluation Committee were requested to submit samples of their Bullet Proof Jackets for trials. The trialshave already been completed and Report of the `Trial Team` is under consideration of the Ministry of Defence. In the past also, procurement of Bullet Proof Jackets has been made from Indian Vendors, who meet the qualitative requirements.